

WHERE IS HEAVEN?

Taught by Willis E. Bishop
at Good Samaritan Village
February 29, 2000

Heaven is a place, not just a state. In John 14 our Lord said, "I go to prepare a place for you." Then you remember that our Lord, in His body, ascended, and that must have been in some place. You and I, as Bible believers, have no question but that Heaven is a place.

To what place did Jesus ascend? Turn to three passages of Scripture: Hebrews chapter 4, Ephesians chapter 4, and II Corinthians chapter 12.

Hebrews 4:14: Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed [notice this preposition] through the heavens [plural].

Ephesians 4:10: He who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens [above all the heavens].

Hebrews 4 told me that our Lord passed through the heavens.
Ephesians 4 tells me that He ascended far above all the heavens.

Now II Corinthians 12. We are familiar with the experience of the Apostle Paul. Verse 2: I know a man in Christ before fourteen years ago, whether in the body I do not know or whether outside the body I do not know, God knows. Such an one was caught up to [Greek - as far as] the third heaven.
[Verse 4] He was caught up into Paradise.

In verse 2 Paul was caught up as far as the third heaven. In verse 4 he was caught up into the Paradise - a different Greek preposition. What I am inferring is that when Paul arrived at the third heaven he then moved on into Paradise. Christ ascended far above all the heavens - He passed through all the heavens. So when the Apostle Paul arrived as far as the third heaven, he was then caught up into Paradise. ~~It seems to say that he left the third heaven and went on~~ into Paradise.

Hold that II Corinthians 12 passage and turn to Hebrews 9. II Corinthians 12 verse 4 says that Paul was caught up into Paradise. Now Hebrews 9:24 says: For Christ has not entered the holy places made by hands, which are copies of the true, but into [Greek] heaven [singular] itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Paul was caught up into Paradise, and Christ entered Heaven. I suggest that in addition to the three heavens there must be a fourth heaven into which Christ entered, and that fourth heaven is Paradise. It is the throne room of the Majesty on High, the uncreated Heaven in which God dwells.

Comment: Christ was caught up through the heavens - He went beyond.

WHERE IS HEAVEN? - Bishop

He went above all the heavens. But in addition to that, He went into Heaven itself, which is Paradise.

When God "spoke and the worlds were created - He commanded and they stood fast," He created the heavens. But His own location, which is the Majesty of the Throne on High, was not a created place. He had always dwelt there - and that is the Paradise into which Paul was caught up.

As believers, when we are ushered from this life the angels will escort us into Paradise, the Throne Room of God's Heaven.

Question re all the heavens.

Paradise is above all the heavens, and in Hebrews 9:24 Paradise is also called a heaven. It is not the first, second or third heaven - it is above all of those. Christ passed through heavens one, two and three and into another heaven, which is called Paradise. Some day you and I, as believers, will be with Him in Paradise.

* * * * *